

Appendix 10.8 Viking Ecology CV summary

Contributor: Jim Conroy B.Sc. M.Sc (Celtic Environment Ltd)

Area of expertise: Otter ecology

Relevant experience: Jim is one of the UK's leading experts on otters, having been studying the species for over 30 years, during which time much of his research was centred on Shetland. As a consequence he is one of country's foremost otter surveyors, with experience of surveying the species in several different countries in Europe. As part of his studies he, along with his colleagues developed techniques for monitoring otters as well as identifying the limitations of the methodology. Jim has published over 100 papers and reports on otters as well as editing a number of conference proceedings. His experience and expertise has been recognised internationally by his appointment as Chair of the IUCN (World Conservation Union), Species Survival Commission Otter Specialist Group.

Contributor: Dr Peter Cosgrove, MIEEM (EnviroCentre Ltd)

Area of expertise: Freshwater pearl mussels and Ecological Impact Assessment

Relevant experience: Peter is one of the UK's leading freshwater pearl mussel surveyors and is the most experienced freshwater pearl mussel surveyor in Scotland, with unparalleled working knowledge of Scotland's freshwater pearl mussel populations. Peter carried out the first national survey for the species in 1998 and during the last decade has surveyed over 800 rivers for freshwater pearl mussels in Scotland. Peter has published many scientific papers and technical reports, including papers on the rediscovery of freshwater pearl mussels in Shetland. Peter is also a specialist in Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and has co-ordinated and contributed to many ECIA's.

Contributor: Chas Emes, (Aquaterra Ecology)

Area of expertise: Freshwater invertebrates, bio-monitoring

Relevant experience: Chas has over twenty years experience in aquatic invertebrate ecology, initially in research on invertebrates in transitional waters and more recently in freshwater invertebrate monitoring associated with major developments, including wind farms and flood alleviation schemes. He is a specialist in microscopic invertebrate identification and has co-authored many scientific papers and written over twenty technical reports on aquatic invertebrates.

Contributor: Dr Andy McMullen., MIEEM (EnviroCentre Ltd)

Area of expertise: Plant ecology, palaeoecology, EIA

Relevant experience: Andy is a highly skilled plant ecologist with a breadth of experience throughout the North Atlantic regions, from the UK to Greenland, with expertise developed over fourteen years in botany and plant ecology with particular experience in the field ecology of bryophytes and higher plants; palaeoecology; Ecological Impact Assessment; environmental archaeology; project, people and land management; interpretation and lecturing. He has produced many mitigation, management and interpretive plans for a range of public and private sector clients.

Contributor: Kate Proctor, MIEEM (Highland Ecology)

Area of expertise: NVC/vegetation survey/habitat condition assessment

Relevant experience: Kate has 15 years experience carrying out vegetation-based, predominantly NVC, surveys throughout Britain, particularly in the Scottish uplands. This

work has been carried out for a wide range of clients in both the private and public sector, involving writing reports, project management and providing land management advice. Kate is one of the leading NVC surveyors currently working in Scotland.

Contributor: Tim Rafferty, MIEEM, CEnv (Highland Ecology)

Area of expertise: Vegetation Specialist (NVC)

Relevant experience: Tim has 15 years experience of carrying out many types of vegetation survey throughout Scotland and is one of the country's foremost specialists. Much of this has involved NVC, the most sophisticated UK classification system, and much of it has involved blanket bog. Tim has written many reports evaluating vegetation and providing management advice. A large range of clients has included SNH, National Trust for Scotland, Forestry Commission, Deer Commission and various private development companies.

Contributor: Dr Jon Watt, MIFM, MIEEM (Waterside Ecology)

Area of expertise: Freshwater fish

Relevant experience: Jon has over twenty years post-graduate experience in ecological research and wildlife management. He spent 8 years as Senior Biologist for Lochaber Fisheries Trust researching, monitoring and promoting optimal management of salmonid populations in highland Scotland. Jon now trades as Waterside Ecology, specialising in fisheries and aquatic conservation projects for a wide range of public and private sector clients. He has published numerous technical reports and several papers on salmonid conservation and restoration. Jon has a thorough practical knowledge of fish survey techniques as well as extensive experience of analysing and interpreting fisheries data to provide objective advice for management.